THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) While there are varying estiamtes about Pakistan's and China's Defence expenditure, India's Defence expenditure has been in the region of 2.3% in the last ten years.

(b) and (c) There is no decision of the Government so far to set up Aerospace Command. However, adequate measures are in place to address concerns of national security keeping in view the changing threat perception.

Civilian casualties in firing range in Uttarakhand

†4480. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several civilians were killed in straying of bullets during practice exercises and on explosion of grenades later in various firing ranges of Army in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the total number of such incidents over the years, with number of casualties therein;

(c) whether there is a plan to give job to a person each of the affected family in Army; and

(d) if so, whether there is a proposal to increase compensation given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Since the creation of Uttarakhand State, one such incident has been reported at Raipur Field Firing Range, Dehradun in April, 2007, in which one civilian was killed and two injured.

(c) There is no such provision under the existing policy.

(d) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

Defence deals between India and Israel

4481. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.